

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CAPE T 00189 182012Z

46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 CU-02 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04

SIL-01 SR-02 ORM-01 /095 W
----- 084201

R 181550Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4411

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0189

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SF, LI

SUBJECT: CONFIRMATION OF VORSTER/TOLBERT MEETING IN MONROVIA

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. PRIME MINISTER VORSTER IS PLEASED BY
WHAT HE REGARDS AS HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT AND SUCCESSFUL
MEETING WITH LIBERIA'S PRESIDENT TOLBERT. IT WOULD APPEAR,
THOUGH, THAT VORSTER AND HIS ADVISORS ARE TOO SANGUINE IN THEIR
ASSESSMENT OF HOW VARIOUS AFRICAN LEADERS HAVE REACTED TO
SOUTH AFRICANS' CASE FOR SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT. END SUMMARY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 CAPE T 00189 182012Z

2. SOUTH AFRICAN NEWSPAPERS ARE FEATURING ACCOUNTS OF PRIME MINISTER VORSTER'S VISIT TO LIBERIA FEBRUARY 11 AND 12. ARGUS NEWSPAPERS OF FEB 16 CARRIED LENGTHY SUMMARY OF LONDON TIMES ARTICLE ON THE MEETING BETWEEN VORSTER AND PRESIDENT TOLBERT. IN GENERAL, PRESS HERE IS REGARDING TALKS AS "BREAKTHROUGH" AND IS LAVISHING PRAISE ON PRIME MINISTER.

3. LIBERIAN VISIT WAS CENTRAL TOPIC OF OFF-THE-RECORD SESSION VORSTER HAD WITH SOUTH AFRICAN NEWSPAPER EDITORS FEB 17. SOME OF THOSE EDITORS HAVE TOLD US THAT VORSTER WAS IN HIGH SPIRITS AND MORE SELF-CONFIDENT THAN THEY HAVE EVER SEEN HIM BEFORE. HE OBVIOUSLY VERY SATISFIED THAT MEETING WITH TOLBERT HAD TAKEN PLACE. MOREOVER, HE WAS "GLEEFUL" THAT LIBERIANS CHOSE TO REVEAL NOT ONLY FACT OF MEETING, BUT ALSO DETAILS OF DISCUSSION. (FOREIGN SECRETARY FOURIE CALLED AMBASSADOR TODAY TO APOLOGIZE FOR NOT HAVING INFORMED HIM OF VORSTER TRIP BEFORE IT BECAME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE. SAG HAD INTENDED BRIEF CERTAIN AMBASSADORS, BUT, FOURIE SAID, WAS "SCOOPED" BY LIBERIANS' LEAK.)

4. REFERRING TO ACCOUNT IN LONDON TIMES, VORSTER SMILED AND SAID "IT WASN'T A LEAK, IT WAS AN OVERFLOW." VORSTER IMPLIED THAT TIMES ARTICLE WAS VIRTUALLY A MINUTE OF HIS DISCUSSION WITH TOLBERT, AND THAT SOURCE OF INFORMATION COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN HIGH-LEVEL LIBERIAN OFFICIAL. HE ALSO SAID THIS VERSION OF MEETING CONTAINED CERTAIN ERRORS WHICH HE WOULD COMMENT ON PUBLICLY AT LATER DATE.

5. IN SUBSEQUENT PUBLIC STATEMENT, VORSTER SAID TIMES ERRED IN SAYING HE HAD PREVIOUSLY MET WITH KENNETH KAUNDA AND WITH ANC LEADERS. HE SAID, THOUGH, THAT SINCE OCTOBER 5 LAST YEAR THERE HAD BEEN AT LEAST FIFTEEN MEETINGS IN CAPE TOWN, PRETORIA, LUSAKA, AND SALISBURG BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF SOUTH AFRICAN AND ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENTS. HE ADDED THAT SA DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WOULD ISSUE A FURTHER STATEMENT RECTIFYING OTHER ERRORS CONTAINED IN TIMES' REPORT. (COMMENT: WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT OTHER ERRORS VORSTER WAS REFERRING TO. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT HE HAD IN MIND SOME POINTS HE APPARENTLY MADE TO TOLBERT WHICH CONTAINED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 CAPE T 00189 182012Z

FUNDAMENTAL MISREPRESENTATIONS ABOUT CONDITIONS OF SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS. FOR EXAMPLE, HE IS QUOTED AS STATING THAT STANDARD OF SCHOOLING WAS THE SAME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL RACES IN SOUTH AFRICA; THAT REASON SAG DID NOT PERMIT HOUSING FOR FAMILIES OF MIGRANT WORKERS WAS BECAUSE UNDER TRADITIONAL CUSTOMS A BLACK WORKER COULD HAVE SEVERAL WIVES AND MANY CHILDREN AND IT WOULD BE VERY COSTLY FOR GOVT TO PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION FOR HIM AND HIS FAMILY; THAT ALL RACES RECEIVE

THE SAME WAGES FOR THE SAME WORK; ETC.)

6. VORSTER TOLD THE EDITORS THAT TOLBERT UNDERSTOOD AND ACCEPTED THE BASICS OF SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT. (COMMENT: IT WUITE POSSIBLE THAT TOLBERT LISTENED TO VORSTER'S DECRPTION OF SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT AND MADE NO ADVERSE RESPONSE. FROM VORSTER'S REMARKS ABOUT SUCCESS OF HIS MEETING WITH TOLBERT AND OTHER COMMENTS SAG OFFICIALS HAVE MADE ABOUT MEETINGS WITH OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS, WE CAN SEE DANGER THAT VORSTER AND HIS ADVISORS BELIEVE THAT AFRICAN LEADERS ARE RELENTING SIGNIFICANTLY ON THEIR ATTITUDE ABOUT BLACK-WHITE RELATIONSHIPS IN SOUTH AFRICA. IF SOUTH AFRICANS REALLY THINK THEY CAN SELL SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT, WE BELIEVE THEY ARE SERIOUSLY MISREADING VIEWS OF AFRICAN LEADERS. CONSEQUENCE OF THIS COULD BE THAT THEY MAY FAIL TO MOVE AS FAR OR AS FAST AS THEY SHOULD TO INSTITUTE SOME CHANGES IN RACIAL POLICIES. CERTAINLY, AS YET SAG'S ACTIONS IN NO WAY MATCH ITS RHETORIC ABOUT CHANGE, AND IN FACT VERY LITTLE HAS BEEN DONE TO ALTER STATUS OF THIS COUNTRY'S AFRICANS, ASIANS, AND COLOREDS.)
HURD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, CHIEFS OF STATE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAPET00189
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750058-0012
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750236/aaaabghr.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONFIRMATION OF VORSTER/TOLBERT MEETING IN MONROVIA
TAGS: PFOR, SF, LI, (VORSTER, BALTHAZAR JOHANNES), (TOLBERT, WILLIAM R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006